



One Hundred Fifteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

November 2, 2017

Michael T. McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul:

I was dismayed that you saw fit to postpone the Committee on Homeland Security's hearing to examine the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) disaster preparedness and response activities. I was also disappointed that the hearing was canceled abruptly, with no advance notification or reasonable explanation for the postponement.

In the wake of the unprecedented 2017 hurricane season, the Committee on Homeland Security must not shirk its FEMA oversight responsibilities. Our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are counting on us to ensure the Federal government provides desperately needed emergency relief to their devastated communities, as it has for those affected by recent hurricanes in Florida and your home state of Texas.

I know I speak for all Democrats on this Committee when I urge you to hold this important hearing without further delay. We continue to stand with communities still struggling after these disasters, and hope you will do the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bennie Thompson". The signature is stylized with a large "B" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Ranking Member